REMARKS

The Office action of July 7, 2004 has been received and its contents carefully noted.

Claims 1-2, and 4-16 are pending in the application where claims 6-16 have been withdrawn. Claim 1 has been amended. Support for the amendment may be found, for example, in Fig. 1 and on page 20, lines 9-21, and page 23, lines 18-26 of the specification.

Claims 1-2, and 4 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Stokes (U.S. Patent No. 5,612,902) and Spaulding et al. ("Spaulding") (U.S. Patent No. 5,604,610). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections, and request allowance thereof in the continuation prosecution application for the following reasons.

The Claims are Patentable Over the Cited References

Claims 1-2, and 4 are not made obvious by Stokes and Spaulding

Claims 1-2, and 4 stand rejected under § 103(a) in view of Stokes and Spaulding. Stokes and Spaulding, either alone or in combination, fail to disclose the features recited in these claims as amended such as a lookup table of color characteristic data, said color characteristic data being associated with color characteristic of an input device inputting said supplied image and to be developed into a multidimensional lookup table in response to inputting of said supplied image.

In contrast to the recited features, Stokes discloses a method for analytic generation of a multi-dimensional table that solely uses color characteristic data associated with an output device (printer 28) that receives a supplied image and also predetermines the multi-dimensional lookup table (and stored in memory) prior to receiving the supplied image. (see FIGs. 1, 2; Abstract; col. 3, lines 18-27; col. 4, lines 53-62; col. 5, lines 1-13) Specifically, Stokes states that "…a processor in the printer uses the information received from the detector to create an analytical model which characterizes (for) that printer which is based on the colorants (e.g., inks) which are currently being used…using this analytical model, the processor creates a multi-dimensional lookup table and stores that table in memory…subsequent images which are printed use the multi-dimensional lookup table to determine the appropriate compensation values for each color of the image to be printed." (see FIGs. 1, 2; Abstract; col. 3, lines 18-27).

In contrast to the recited features, as expressly stated Stokes only uses color characteristic data associated with an output device (printer 28) and further Stokes pre-generates (predetermines) the multi-dimensional lookup table to store in memory prior to receiving any input images to output. There is a significant distinction between using color characteristic data associated with an output device and pre-generating the multi-dimensional lookup table and storing the table in memory prior to receiving a supplied image as disclosed by Stokes, and using a

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lookup table of color characteristic data associated with color characteristic of an input device inputting a supplied image and developing the color characteristic data into a multidimensional lookup table in response to inputting of the supplied image as recited. Stokes predetermines and stores the multi-dimensional lookup table and only uses color characteristic data associated with an output device receiving a supplied image in contrast to the recited features.

Similarly, Spaulding fails to disclose the recited features. Spaulding discloses a color transform system that uses the color characteristic of the actual input image itself and also predetermines the multi-dimensional lookup table to complete the color transforms. (see FIG. 3; Abstract; col. 1, lines 48-51; col. 2, lines 49-52; col. 6, lines 33-38). Specifically, Spaulding states that "...a plurality of color transforms are stored, each such transform responds to input color values of a digital image and produces output color values which can be used by the particular device...the next step in the process shown in FIG. 3 is the combining of the various predetermined transforms...the individual predetermined transforms might involve one or a combination of transform elements such as...3-D LUT's..." (see FIG. 3; Abstract; col. 6, lines 33-38).

Spaulding expressly uses a predetermined multi-dimensional lookup table (transform) and only uses the color characteristics associated with the input digital image itself in contrast to using

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the color characteristics associated with an input device inputting the supplied image and developing the multi-dimensional table in response to inputting of the supplied image as recited. Again, there is a significant distinction between using color characteristic data associated with color characteristic of an input device inputting a supplied image and developing the color characteristic data into a multidimensional lookup table in response to inputting of the supplied image as recited, and predetermining and storing a multi-dimensional lookup table and only using color characteristic data associates with the input digital image itself as disclosed by Spaulding.

Stokes and Spaulding, either alone or in combination, fail to disclose the recited features of a lookup table of color characteristic data, said color characteristic data being associated with color characteristic of an input device inputting a supplied image and developing the color characteristic data into a multidimensional lookup table in response to inputting of the supplied image making the claimed invention patentably distinct and non-obvious from the cited references.

Conclusion

In view of the amendments and remarks submitted above, it is respectfully submitted that all of the remaining claims are allowable and a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this,

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concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (703) 205-8000 to discuss the application.

Respectfully submitted,

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